

§ 956.22

or law presented on the record, and an appropriate order. A tentative decision shall become the final decision of the Postal Service unless exceptions are filed in accordance with § 956.22.

§ 956.22 Exceptions to initial decision or tentative decision.

(a) A party in a proceeding presided over by an Administrative Law Judge, except a party who failed to file an answer, may appeal to the Judicial Officer by filing exceptions in a brief on appeal within 15 days from the receipt of the Administrative Law Judge's written initial decision.

(b) A party in a proceeding presided over by the Judicial Officer, except one who has failed to file an answer, may file exceptions within 15 days from the receipt of the Judicial Officer's written tentative decision.

(c) Upon receipt of the brief on appeal from an initial decision of an Administrative Law Judge, the Recorder shall promptly transmit the record to the Judicial Officer. The date for filing the reply to a brief on appeal or to a brief in support of exceptions to a tentative decision by the Judicial Officer is 10 days after the receipt thereof. No additional briefs shall be received unless requested by the Judicial Officer.

(d) Briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions and replies thereto shall be filed in quadruplicate with the Recorder and contain the following matter in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index of the matters presented, with page references; a table of cases alphabetically arranged; a list of statutes and texts cited, with page references.

(2) A concise abstract or statement of the case.

(3) Numbered exceptions to specific findings of fact or conclusions of law of the presiding officer.

(4) A concise argument clearly setting forth points of fact and of law relied upon in support of, or in opposition to, each exception taken, together with specific references to the pertinent part of the record and the legal or other authorities relied upon.

(e) Unless permission is granted by the Judicial Officer, no brief on appeal or in support of exceptions shall exceed

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50 printed or 100 typewritten pages double spaced.

(f) The Judicial Officer will extend the time to file briefs only upon motion for good cause found. The movant shall be promptly notified of the Judicial Officer's decision on the motion.

§ 956.23 Judicial Officer.

The Judicial Office is authorized:

(a) To act as presiding officer at hearings;

(b) To render tentative decisions;

(c) To render final decisions of the Postal Service;

(d) To refer the record in any proceedings to the Postmaster General or the Deputy Postmaster General who will make the final decision of the Postal Service; and

(e) To revise or amend these rules of practice. In determining appeals from initial decisions or exceptions to tentative decisions, the entire official record will be considered before a final decision of the Postal Service is rendered. Before rendering a final decision of the Postal Service, the Judicial Officer may order the hearing reopened for the presentation of additional evidence by the parties.

§ 956.24 Motion for reconsideration.

Within 10 days from the date thereof, or such longer period as may be fixed by the Judicial Officer, either party may file a motion for reconsideration of the final agency decision. Each motion for reconsideration shall be accompanied by a brief clearly setting forth the points of fact and of law relied upon in support of said motion. The Judicial Officer, in his discretion, may hold a hearing on the issues raised by the motion.

§ 956.25 Modification or revocation of orders.

A party against whom an order has been issued may file an application setting forth reasons which he believes warrant the modification or revocation of the order. The Recorder shall transmit a copy of the application to the Ethical Conduct Officer who shall file a written reply. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Recorder. The Judicial Officer, in his discretion, may hold a hearing on the